

In the claims

1. (Currently amended) A two-screen method of identifying a G protein coupled receptor (GPCR) signaling inhibitor, which comprises:

(a) providing a library of variant peptides based on the primary sequence of a native G protein $G\alpha$ subunit carboxyl terminal peptide sequence that binds to said GPCR on a G protein interaction site of said GPCR;

(b) screening said peptide library in vitro in the presence of said native G protein $G\alpha$ subunit carboxyl terminal peptide for binding to said G protein interaction site of said GPCR to identify peptide library members that bind to said G protein interaction site with higher affinity than that of said native G protein peptide sequence;

(c) selecting a member of said peptide library having binding to said GPCR of higher affinity than that of said native G protein peptide sequence;

(d) providing a library of candidate compounds to screen for binding to said G protein interaction site of said GPCR;

(e) screening said library of candidate compounds in vitro for binding to said GPCR in competition with a member of said peptide library selected in step (c) to identify a member of said library of candidate compounds having binding to said G protein interaction site of said GPCR of equal or higher affinity than that of the peptide selected in step (c); and

(f) identifying said member of said library of candidate compounds as a signaling inhibitor of said GPCR.

2. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 1, wherein said screening of step (b) or step (e) is performed by testing for binding to an intact G protein coupled receptor.

3. (Previously presented) A method of claim 1, wherein said screening of step (b) or step (e) is performed by testing for binding to a GPCR molecule that comprises at least the intracellular fragment of said GPCR.

4. (Canceled).

5. (Previously presented) A method of claim 4, wherein said $G\alpha$ subunit carboxyl terminal fragment peptide is from about 7 to about 70 amino acids long.

6. (Original) A method of claim 4, wherein said G protein subunit fragment is from about 7 to about 55 amino acids long.

7. (Original) A method of claim 4, wherein said G protein subunit fragment is about 8 to about 50 amino acids long.

8. (Original) A method of claim 4, wherein said G protein subunit fragment is about 9 to about 23 amino acids long.

9. (Original) A method of claim 4, wherein said G protein subunit fragment is about 11 amino acids long.

10. (Canceled).

11. (Canceled).

12. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 4, wherein said G protein subunit is a G $\beta\gamma$ dimer.

13. (Original) A method of claim 1, wherein said screening of step (b) comprises at least two sequential binding assays.

14. (Original) A method of claim 13, wherein at least one of said sequential binding assays is a competitive binding assay.

15. (Original) A method of claim 1, wherein said screening of step (b) is a competitive binding assay.

16. (Previously presented) A method of claim 14, wherein said competitive binding assay is characterized by co-incubation of members of said peptide library with said G α subunit carboxyl terminal protein peptide.

17. (Previously presented) A method of claim 15, wherein said competitive binding assay is characterized by co-incubation of members of said peptide library with said G α subunit carboxyl terminal protein peptide.

18. (Previously presented) A method of claim 15, wherein said peptide library members provide signal to detect binding.

19. (Previously presented) A method of claim 1, wherein said candidate compounds of step (e) provide signal to detect binding.

20. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 1, wherein said screening is an enzyme-linked immunosorbant assay.

21. (Previously presented) A method of claim 1, wherein binding to said GPCR is determined by measuring a signal generated from interaction of said GPCR with a ligand that activates said GPCR.

22. (Previously presented) A method of claim 21, wherein activation of said GPCR is determined.

23. (Previously presented) A method of claim 21, wherein inhibition of said GPCR is determined.

24. (Original) A method of claim 1, wherein said peptide library is a combinatorial peptide library.

25. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 24, wherein said combinatorial peptide library is a protein-peptide fusion protein library.

26. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 25, wherein said protein-peptide fusion protein library is a maltose binding protein-peptide fusion protein library.

27. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 1, wherein said peptide library is a peptide display library.

28. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 1, wherein said library of candidate compounds of step (d) is a focused library of candidate compounds based on the structure of a compound selected in step (c).

29. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 20, wherein said enzyme-linked immunosorbant assay comprises the steps of:

(a) immobilizing said G protein coupled receptor onto a solid support;

(b) providing a protein-peptide fusion protein display library;

(c) incubating members of said protein-peptide fusion protein display library with said immobilized G protein coupled receptor in the presence of said G protein coupled receptor binding peptide under conditions such that members of protein-peptide fusion protein display library having a binding affinity for said G protein coupled receptor at least as high as said G protein coupled receptor binding peptide bind to said immobilized G protein coupled receptor;

(d) removing unbound members of said protein-peptide fusion protein display library;

(e) incubating said bound protein-peptide fusion protein display library with antibodies which specifically recognize the protein portion of said protein-peptide fusion protein display library members under conditions such that said antibodies specifically bind to said protein-peptide fusion protein display library members;

(f) removing unbound antibodies; and

(g) detecting said bound antibodies.

30. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 29, wherein said protein-peptide fusion protein display library is a maltose binding protein-peptide fusion protein display library and said antibodies are anti-maltose binding protein antibodies.

31. (Withdrawn) An enzyme-linked immunosorbant assay which comprises the steps of:

(a) immobilizing a G protein coupled receptor onto a solid support;

(b) providing a protein-peptide fusion protein display library;

(c) incubating members of said protein-peptide fusion protein display library with said immobilized G protein coupled receptor in the presence of said G protein coupled receptor binding peptide under conditions such that members of protein-peptide fusion protein display library having a binding affinity for said G protein coupled receptor at least as high as said G protein coupled receptor binding peptide bind to said immobilized G protein coupled receptor;

(d) removing unbound members of said protein-peptide fusion protein display library;

(e) incubating said bound protein-peptide fusion protein display library with antibodies which specifically recognize the protein portion of said protein-peptide fusion protein display library members under conditions such that said antibodies specifically bind to said protein-peptide fusion protein display library members;

(f) removing unbound antibodies; and

(g) detecting said bound antibodies.

32. (Withdrawn) An enzyme-linked immunosorbant assay of claim 33, wherein said protein-peptide fusion protein display library is a maltose binding protein-peptide fusion protein display library and said antibodies are anti-maltose binding protein antibodies.

33. (Original) A method of claim 1, wherein said library of candidate compounds is a peptide library.

34. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 1, wherein said library of candidate compounds is a small molecule library.

35. (Withdrawn) A compound identified by a method of claim 1.

36. (Withdrawn) A compound identified by a method of claim 29.

37. (Withdrawn) A method of identifying a G protein coupled receptor signaling inhibiting peptide, which comprises:

(a) providing a peptide library based on a native G protein coupled receptor binding peptide;

(b) screening said peptide library for high affinity binding to said G protein coupled receptor; and

(c) selecting a member of said peptide library having binding to said G protein coupled receptor of higher affinity than that of the native peptide.

38. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 37, wherein said screening of step (b) is performed by testing for binding to an intact G protein coupled receptor.

39. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 37, wherein said screening of step (b) is performed by testing for binding to at least an intracellular fragment of a G protein coupled receptor.

40. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 37, wherein said G protein coupled receptor binding peptide of step (a) is a G protein subunit or fragment thereof.

41. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 40, wherein said G protein subunit fragment is from about 7 to about 70 amino acids long.

42. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 40, wherein said G protein subunit fragment is from about 7 to about 55 amino acids long.

43. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 40, wherein said G protein subunit fragment is from about 8 to about 50 amino acids long.

44. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 40, wherein said G protein subunit fragment is from about 9 to about 23 amino acids long.

45. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 40, wherein said G protein subunit fragment is about 11 amino acids long.

46. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 40, wherein said G protein subunit fragment is a G α subunit.

47. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 40, wherein said G protein coupled receptor binding peptide is a G α subunit carboxyl terminal peptide.

48. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 40, wherein said G protein subunit is a G $\beta\gamma$ dimer.

49. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 37, wherein said screening of step (b) comprises at least two sequential binding assays.

50. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 49, wherein at least one of said sequential binding assays is a competitive binding assay.

51. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 37, wherein said screening of step (b) is a competitive binding assay.

52. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 50, wherein said competitive binding assay is characterized by co-incubation of members of said peptide library with said G protein coupled receptor binding peptide.

53. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 51, wherein said competitive binding assay is characterized by co-incubation of members of said peptide library with said G protein coupled receptor binding peptide.

54. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 51, wherein said peptide library members are capable of providing a detectable signal.

55. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 37, wherein said screening is an enzyme-linked immunosorbant assay.

56. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 37, wherein binding to said G protein coupled receptor is determined by measuring a

signal generated from interaction of an activating ligand with said G protein coupled receptor.

57. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 56, wherein activation of said G protein coupled receptor is determined.

58. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 56, wherein inhibition of said G protein coupled receptor is determined.

59. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 37, wherein said peptide library is a combinatorial peptide library.

60. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 59, wherein said combinatorial peptide library is a protein-peptide fusion protein library.

61. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 60, wherein said protein-peptide fusion protein library is a maltose binding protein-peptide fusion protein library.

62. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 37, wherein said peptide library is a peptide display library.

63. (Withdrawn) A method of identifying a G protein coupled receptor signaling inhibitor compound, which comprises:

(a) providing a library of candidate compounds to screen for binding to said G protein coupled receptor;

(b) providing a high affinity G protein coupled receptor binding peptide;

(c) screening said library of candidate compounds for high affinity binding to said G protein coupled receptor in

competition with said high affinity G protein coupled receptor binding peptide; and

(d) identifying a member of said library of candidate compounds having binding to said G protein coupled receptor of equal or higher affinity than that of the peptides of step (b).

64. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 63, wherein said screening of step (c) is performed by testing for binding to an intact G protein coupled receptor.

65. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 63, wherein said screening of step (c) is performed by testing for binding to at least an intracellular fragment of a G protein coupled receptor.

66. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 63, wherein said G protein coupled receptor binding peptide of step (b) is a G protein subunit or fragment thereof.

67. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 66, wherein said G protein subunit fragment is about 7 to about 70 amino acids long.

68. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 66, wherein said G protein subunit fragment is about 7 to about 55 amino acids long.

69. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 66, wherein said G protein subunit fragment is about 8 to about 50 amino acids long.

70. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 66, wherein said G protein subunit fragment is about 9 to about 23 amino acids long.

71. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 66, wherein said G protein subunit fragment is 11 amino acids long.

72. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 66, wherein said G protein subunit is a $G\alpha$ subunit.

73. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 66, wherein said G protein coupled receptor binding peptide is a $G\alpha$ subunit carboxyl terminal peptide.

74. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 66, wherein said G protein subunit is a $G\beta\gamma$ dimer.

75. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 66, wherein said screening of step (c) is an enzyme-linked immunosorbant assay.

76. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 63, wherein binding to said G protein coupled receptor is determined by measuring a signal generated from interaction of an activating ligand with said G protein coupled receptor.

77. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 76, wherein activation of said G protein coupled receptor is determined.

78. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 76, wherein inhibition of said G protein coupled receptor is determined.

79. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 63, wherein said library of candidate compounds of step (a) is a focused library of candidate compounds based on the structure of the peptide of step (b).

80. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 63, wherein said library of candidate compounds of step (a) is a combinatorial library.

81. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 80, wherein said combinatorial library is a diverse small molecule library.

82. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 81, wherein said diverse small molecule combinational library comprises drug-like molecules.

83. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 81, wherein said diverse small molecule combinational library is a focused small molecule library.

84. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 83, wherein said focused small molecule library comprises drug-like molecules.

85. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 84, wherein the members of said focused small molecule library are based on the chemical structure of the peptide of step (b).

86. (Withdrawn) A G protein coupled receptor signaling inhibiting peptide identified according to a method of claim 37.

87. (Withdrawn) A G protein coupled receptor signaling inhibiting compound identified according to a method of claim 63.

88. (Withdrawn) A method of inhibiting G protein coupled receptor signaling in a cell having a G protein coupled receptor which comprises administering to said cell a compound identified according to a method of claim 1.

89. (Withdrawn) A method of inhibiting G protein coupled receptor signaling in a cell having a G protein coupled receptor which comprises administering to said cell a compound identified according to a method of claim 37.

90. (Withdrawn) A method of inhibiting G protein coupled receptor signaling in a cell having a G protein coupled receptor which comprises administering to said cell a compound identified according to a method of claim 63.

91. (Withdrawn) A method of inhibiting G protein coupled receptor signaling which comprises contacting a compound with said G protein coupled receptor which interferes with binding of said G protein coupled receptor to its cognate G proteins.

92. (Withdrawn) A method for identifying a G protein coupled receptor signaling modifier compound, which comprises:

(a) providing a peptide identified according to the method of claim 40, wherein said peptide is labeled to provide a detectable peptide signal;

(b) providing a library of candidate G protein coupled receptor signaling modifier compounds;

(c) contacting said peptide with said G protein coupled receptor under conditions such that said peptide binds to said G protein coupled receptor;

- (d) removing unbound peptide from said G protein coupled receptor;
- (e) measuring the signaling activity of said peptide-bound G protein coupled receptor and measuring said detectable peptide signal;
- (f) contacting the members of said library of candidate G protein coupled receptor signaling modifier compounds with said peptide-bound G protein coupled receptor;
- (g) measuring the signaling activity of said peptide bound G protein coupled receptor and measuring said detectable peptide signal;
- (h) determining whether said G protein coupled receptor signaling activity is increased or decreased after contact with said candidate compound and whether G protein coupled receptor peptide binding is increased or decreased after contact with said candidate compound; and
- (i) identifying compounds for which contact with said peptide-bound G protein coupled receptor results in both an increase in peptide binding to said G protein coupled receptor and an increase in G protein coupled receptor signaling and identifying compounds for which contact with said peptide-bound G protein couple receptor results in both increase in peptide binding to said G protein coupled receptor and decrease a G protein coupled receptor signaling.

93. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 92, wherein the method for measuring said signaling activity of said peptide-bound G protein coupled receptor is selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) measuring inositol phosphate accumulation;
- (b) measuring intracellular Ca^{2+} levels;

- (c) measuring transendothelial electrical resistance;
- (d) measuring stress fiber formation;
- (e) measuring ligand binding;
- (f) measuring receptor expression;
- (g) measuring receptor desensitization;
- (h) measuring kinase activity;
- (i) measuring phosphatase activity;
- (j) measuring nuclear transcription factors;
- (k) measuring cell migration (chemotaxis);
- (l) measuring superoxide formation;
- (m) measuring nitric oxide formation;
- (n) measuring cell degranulation;
- (o) measuring GIRK activity;
- (p) measuring actin polymerization;
- (q) measuring vasoconstriction;
- (r) measuring cell permeability;
- (s) measuring apoptosis;
- (t) measuring cell differentiation;
- (u) measuring membrane association of a protein that translocates upon GPCR activation, such as protein kinase C;
- (v) measuring cytosolic accumulation of a protein that translocates upon GPCR activation, such as protein kinase C;
- (w) measuring cytosolic accumulation of a protein that translocates upon GPCR activation, such as src; and
- (x) measuring nuclear association of a protein that translocates upon GPCR activation, such as Ran.

94. (Withdrawn) A compound identified by the method of claim 1, which comprises a peptide selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 13, 15, 17, 21, 23,

25-27, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 45-85, 94-111, 125-150, 160-164, 175-178 and 183-264.

95. (Withdrawn) A compound selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 13, 15, 17, 21, 23, 25-27, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 45-85, 94-111, 125-150, 160-164, 175-178 and 183-264.

96. (Withdrawn) A minigene construct encoding a compound according to claim 94.

97. (Withdrawn) A minigene construct encoding a compound according to claim 95.

98. (Withdrawn) A method for providing a therapeutic G protein coupled receptor signaling modifier peptide to a mammal which comprises administering to said mammal an expression construct which expresses a peptide according to SEQ ID NOS: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 13, 15, 17, 21, 23, 25-27, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 45-85, 94-111, 125-150, 160-164, 175-178 and 183-264.

99. (Withdrawn) A method for treating a disease state in which excess G protein coupled receptor signaling is a causative factor, which comprises administering a compound according to claim 98.

100. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 98, wherein said peptide is delivered by an expression construct.

101. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 100, wherein said compound is a non-peptide drug.

102. (New) A two-screen method of identifying a G protein coupled receptor (GPCR) signaling inhibitor, which comprises:

(a) providing a library of variant peptides based on the primary sequence of a native G protein sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42 and 46-105 that binds to said GPCR on a G protein interaction site of said GPCR;

(b) screening said peptide library in vitro in the presence of said native G protein $G\alpha$ subunit carboxyl terminal peptide for binding to said G protein interaction site of said GPCR to identify peptide library members that bind to said G protein interaction site with higher affinity than that of said native G protein peptide sequence;

(c) selecting a member of said peptide library having binding to said GPCR of higher affinity than that of said native G protein peptide sequence;

(d) providing a library of candidate compounds to screen for binding to said G protein interaction site of said GPCR;

(e) screening said library of candidate compounds in vitro for binding to said GPCR in competition with a member of said peptide library selected in step (c) to identify a member of said library of candidate compounds having binding to said G protein interaction site of said GPCR of equal or higher affinity than that of the peptide selected in step (c); and

(f) identifying said member of said library of candidate compounds as a signaling inhibitor of said GPCR.